

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated October 7, 2004. Claims 1-17 are pending. Claims 1-17 are rejected. Claims 1 and 12-17 have been amended. Claim 11 has been canceled. Accordingly, claims 1-10 and 12-17 remain pending in the present application.

Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nessett et al (5,968,176). The Examiner states:

Regarding claim 1, Nessett teaches a method for providing access control in a protocol stack, comprising the steps of:

- (a) receiving a request to perform an operation at a layer of the protocol stack (col. 4 lines 21-46; col. 16 lines 38-42);
- (b) calling an access mediator (col. 6 lines 64-66; col. 7 lines 13-21);
- (c) determining if the request is to be granted based upon a predetermined security policy by the access mediator (col. 19 lines 15-43; col. 20 lines 42-61; col. 21 lines 34-53); and
- (d) providing the determination by the access mediator (col. 6 lines 64-66; col. 7 lines 13-21; col. 19 lines 15-43; col. 20 lines 42-61; col. 21 lines 34-53)...

Applicant respectfully disagrees as to the claims as amended. The present invention, as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 13-17, provide a method, system, and computer readable medium with program instructions for providing access control in a protocol stack, including: (a) receiving a request to perform an operation at a layer of a plurality of layers of the protocol stack; (b) calling an access mediator; (c) determining if the request is to be granted based upon a predetermined security policy by the access mediator; (d) providing the determination by the access mediator; and (e) allowing the operation to be performed at the layer if the determination is to grant the request, wherein access control is provided between the layer and another layer of the protocol stack. The granularity of access control is thus provided at the protocol layer level.

In contrast, the finest granularity of access control disclosed by Nessett is at the node level. This is of coarser granularity than that provided by the present invention. Nessett does not teach or suggest controlling access between the layers of protocol stack. Thus, Nessett does not

teach or suggest the combination of elements, in which the combination provides access control between layers of the protocol stack, as recited in amended independent claims 1 and 13-17.

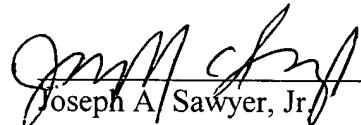
For the above identified reasons, the present invention as recited in independent claims 1 and 13-17 is neither taught nor suggested by Nessett. Applicant further submits that claims 2-10 and 12 are also allowable because they depend on the above allowable base claims.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1-10 and 12-17 are patentable over the cited reference. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the claims as now presented.

Applicants' attorney believes this application in condition for allowance. Should any unresolved issues remain, Examiner is invited to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,  
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